

HOUSE RESOLUTION 44  
By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jack Rochelle of Ripley.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret that we learned of the death of one of Tennessee's most beloved and distinguished citizens, Jack Rochelle of Ripley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rochelle was born on December 20, 1908 in Gibson County; spent his boyhood in Carroll County and graduated from Trezevant High School in 1927; and

WHEREAS, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from West Tennessee Teachers College, now the University of Memphis, in 1931 and after graduation, returned to Trezevant to teach Mathematics for six years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rochelle moved to Halls, in 1937, taught at the high school for one year and served as principal of the Grammar School for two years. During his summers he attended Columbia University Teacher's College and earned his Master of Arts degree in school administration; and

WHEREAS, while teaching in Halls, he met and married Kate Pennington, the Hall's girls' basketball coach and a teacher at the school on June 6, 1941; and

WHEREAS, the Rochelles then moved to Ripley, where Mr. Rochelle served admirably as principal of the Ripley Grammar School for twenty-five productive years; and

WHEREAS, during his years in Ripley, he took advanced graduate work at the University of Tennessee, after which he was employed as the Superintendent of the Union City

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School System from 1965-1970; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, he became a Professor of Education at the University of Tennessee, and supervised the important Student Tracking Program. Upon his retirement in 1974, he and his wife moved back to Ripley; and

WHEREAS, in each of the positions in which he so astutely served, Mr. Rochelle was widely praised for his extraordinary dedication, diligence and strong desire to provide his students with the education they needed in order to succeed; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rochelle evinced his deep faith as an active member of the Ripley First Baptist Church, serving as an inspirational teacher of the Men's Bible Class for more than fifty years, as a Deacon and as Chairman numerous times; and

WHEREAS, he was a Life Member of the National Education Association and the Tennessee Education Association and a Life Member of the Tennessee Congress of Parents and Teachers, he also served as president of the Tennessee Elementary Principals' Association and the West Tennessee Education Association; and

WHEREAS, in the finest traditions of the "Volunteer State", he was very active in community affairs; he served four years as Executive Director of the Ripley Chamber of Commerce, introducing the very popular Tomato Festival and several other community programs; he served as a member, president and Paul Harris Fellow with the Ripley Rotary Club, where he had 56 years of perfect attendance; he also served as a member and Worshipful Master of the Masons, as a high school basketball and football official and as Bailiff of the Circuit Court; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rochelle is survived by two successful sons, Jack Rochelle of Fort Worth, Texas and Bill Rochelle of Los Angeles, California; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to honor the memory of this outstanding citizen who made tremendous contributions to Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of Jack Rochelle and extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.